specific study has been undertaken in the recent past, from time to time steps have been taken to improve the news gathering and editing capability of the news media so that it can come up to international standards. Review of the capability of the Government media in projecting national and international news is a continuous process and suitable steps are taken periodically to bring professionalism in the news media subject to availability of funds, personnel and inter-se priorities within two electronic media. Acquisition of latest hardware, training of news personnel, more visual inputs, improvement in the style of presentation are some of the measures being contemplated.

Introduction of 24 Hour Doordarshan Service on Low Power Transmitters

3316. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been requested to introduce 24 hours Doordarshan service on low power transmitter centres of country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take decision on these requests early;

(d) if so, the details thereof and names of States and Union Territories to be benefited from such decision in the first phase; and

(e) whether Government propose to cover Andhra Pradesh in the first phase?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (e) representations have been received from time to time from various quarters for extension of telecast time on Doordarshan. However, there is no proposal, at present, to start 24 hours Doordarshan service from Low Power TV Centres operating in the country.

Setting up of TV Transmitters and AIR Stations in States and U.Ts.

3317. DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of projects for setting up of T.V. Transmitters/AIR stations have been undertaken in all States and Territories during the last two financial years;

(b) if so, the details thereof separately in each year State and Union Territory-wise;

(c) whether some of such projects have since been completed or near completion;

(d) if so, the details thereof State and Union Territory-wise with number of the same pending;

(e) whether Government propose to take up such projects in current financial year in Uttar Pradesh; and

(f) if so,the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be placed before the House shortly.

Notifying Legal Service Authorities Act, 1987 in Gujarat

3318. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Legal Service Authorities Act, 1987 has not been notifed in the State of Gujarat which is hampering the free legal aid to poor in the State;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government have taken to expeditiously notify the Act in Gujarat to extend free legal aid to the poor of the State?;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE

MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) No, Sir. the provisions of Chapter III of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, as amended, have been extended to the State of Gujarat with effect from the 7th April, 1997 *vide* S.O. 315(E) published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary (No 315), part II-Section 3—Sub-section (ii) dated 10th April, 1997.

(b) and (c) question does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

निर्वाचन प्रणाली में संशोधन किया जाना

3319. **श्री गोविन्दराम मिरी:**
श्रीमती आनंदी ज० पटेल:

क्या विधि और न्याय मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या निर्वाचन आयोग द्वारा निर्वाचन प्राणाली एवं तत्संबंधी कानूनों में सुधार करने हेतु भारत सरकार को भेजे गये प्रस्तावों और सुझावों का ब्यौरा क्या है जो 1 जनवरी, 1997 तक विचाराधीन थे;

(ख) क्या सरकार उन प्रस्तावों और सुझावों पर विचार करने हेतु विभिन्न राजनैतिक दलों को आमंत्रित करने का विचार रखती है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में सरकार कब तक निर्णय ले लेगी?

विधि और न्याय मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री रमाकांत डी० खलप): (क) और (ख) वर्तमान निर्वाचन पद्धति में परिवर्तन ऐसे प्रस्तावों, जिसमें निर्वाचन सुधारों पर अतिरिक्त प्रस्ताव भी हैं, में से एक प्रस्ताव है जिन पर विभिन्न राजनैतिक दलों के नेताओं के साथ विचार-विमर्श चल रहा है। तथापि, निर्वाचन आयोग ने हाल ही में 1 जनवरी, 1997 तक ऐसा कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं किया था।

(ग) निर्वाचन सुधार एक निरंतर प्रक्रिया है। ऐसी कोई निश्चित समय सीमा बता पाना संभव नहीं है जिस तक इस विषय पर सरकार विनिश्चय कर सकें। तथापि, वह यथासंभव शीघ्र निर्वाचन सुधारों के संबंध में एक व्यापक पैकेज को अंतिम रूप देने के लिये उत्सुक है।

Demand for establishment of Guwahati High Court's Bench at Silchar

3320. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that since long, the people of Barak Valley in the State of Assam have been demanding for the establishment of a High Court Bench at Silchar in view of the Guwahati High Court being the High Court of Seven States of North-East Region, the number of cases from Barak Valley along in Guwahati High Court is more than 40% in comparison with the remaining part of Assam besides the other six States and Barak Valley is far away from the principal seat of Guwahati High Court and to pursue a case at Guwahati is enormously costly particularly for the poor people; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken or propose to take to accept this long standing demand of the people of Barak Valley?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) Representations have been received from time to time for establishing Benches of the Gauhati High Court at Dibrugarh and Silchar. However, no proposal has been received from the Government of Assam in this regard, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court, in terms of Section 31(2) of the North-eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971.